

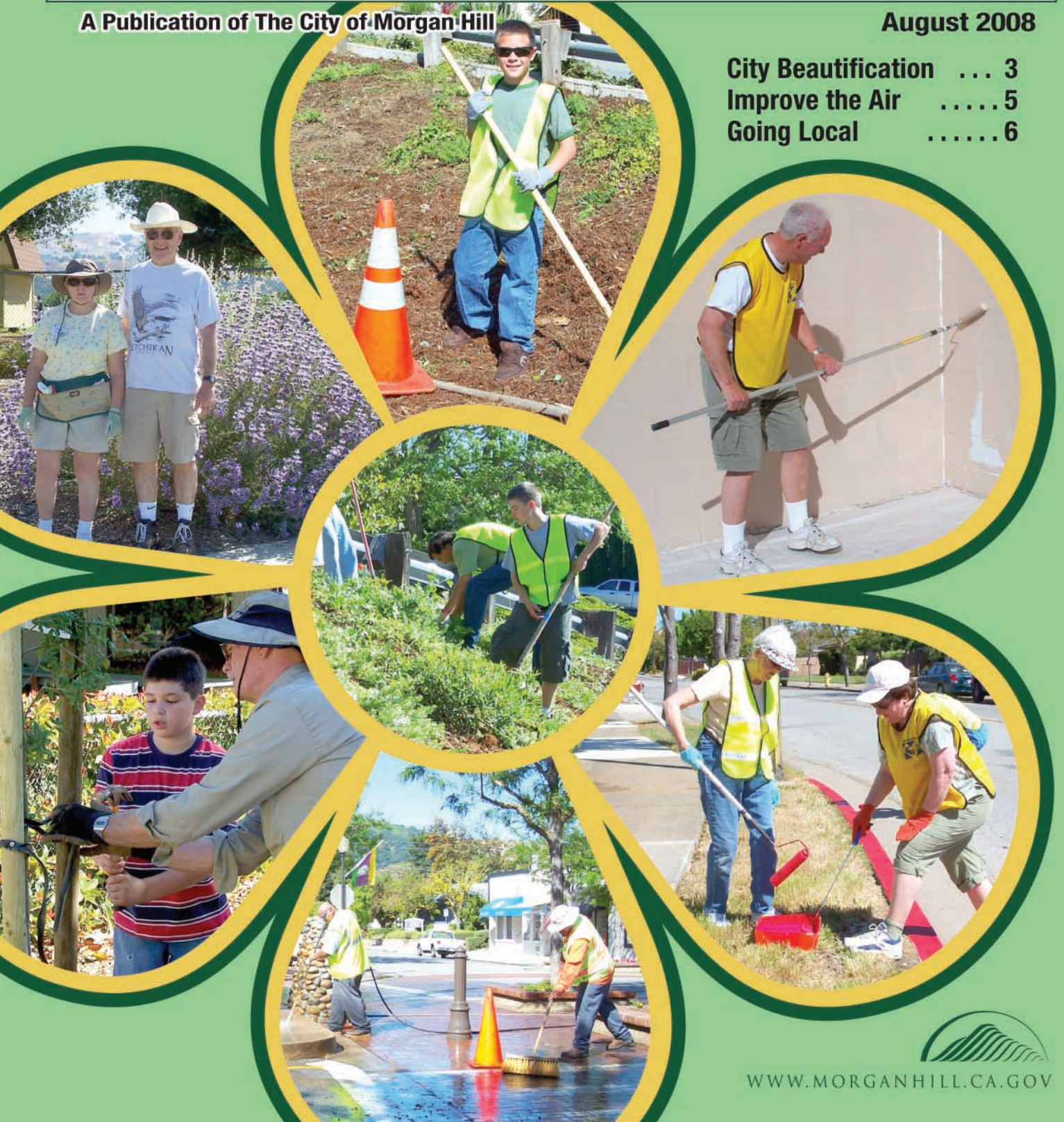
# CITY CONNECTION

## MORGAN HILL NEWS

A Publication of The City of Morgan Hill

August 2008

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[WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV](http://WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV)



## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ART EXHIBITS AT THE MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

**Aug 1-Sept 12: Paul Lougheridge - Lockwasher design**

**Sept 17-Oct 27: Art Studio of Lynda Bassett - Student Art**

To display artwork at the Community and Cultural Center please contact Karen Lengsfeld at 408.782.0008.

### EVENTS AT THE MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

**Sept 27-28: Quilt Show**

South Valley Quilt Association - [www.svqa.org](http://www.svqa.org)

**Oct 3: Family Arts Appreciation Day**

Arts Council of Silicon Valley - 408-998-2787 [www.artscouncil.org](http://www.artscouncil.org)

For more information about events at the Community & Cultural Center or to hold an event there call 408.782.0008.

### COMING TO THE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

**Beginning in September: Jungle Book**

Presented by the South Valley Civic Theatre

Tickets available at the Community Center and at BookSmart.

For additional information call 842-SHOW or visit [www.svct.org](http://www.svct.org)

**Last Thursday of Every Month: Comedy Night at the Playhouse**

Tickets at the door - \$12 / Advance tickets - \$10

Doors open at 6:30PM • Happy Hour 6:30-7:30PM • Show at 7:30 PM

(not recommended for children under 18)

For more information call 408.782.0008 or visit [www.morganhillcomedy.com](http://www.morganhillcomedy.com)

For additional information on all Playhouse performances, contact Debbie Lee-Lazzarino at Morgan Hill Community Playhouse 408.782.0008.

### EVENTS AT THE MORGAN HILL AQUATICS CENTER

**Aug 6: Dive-In Movie - Ratatouille**

Forget about sitting in a movie theater when you can hang out at the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center pool for a movie. Bring the entire family for a fun filled evening. Refreshments are available for additional cost. 7PM - 10PM

**Aug 13: Family Night with DJ Lopez**

Enjoy evening use of the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center with family friendly dance music. 7PM - 8:30PM

**Sept 12: Splash 2 Dash Youth Triathlon**

A fun and confidence building race for youth ages 5-12 years old.

For more information call 408 782.2128 or visit [www.mhcrc.com](http://www.mhcrc.com)

For more information contact the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center at 408.782.2134 or go to [www.mhaquaticscenter.com](http://www.mhaquaticscenter.com)

### EVENTS AT THE CENTENNIAL RECREATION CENTER

**Sept 20: Free Composting Workshop**

10:00AM - 12:00PM To register or find out more information, call 918-4640

**Oct 11: Morgan Hill GET FIT Fitness Fair and Open House**

5K Run/Walk and Family Fun Fun

Fun day of health and fitness for the whole family. 8AM- 12PM

For more information call 408.782.2128 or visit [www.mhcrc.com](http://www.mhcrc.com)

**Oct 18: Free Composting Workshop**

10:00AM - 12:00PM To register or find out more information, call 918-4640



**City of Morgan Hill**  
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill  
408-779-7271

#### CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor <b>Steve Tate</b>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <b>Marby Lee</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Larry Carr</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Mark Grzan</b>	779-7259
Councilmember <b>Greg Sellers</b>	779-7259
City Clerk <b>Irma Torrez</b>	779-7259
City Treasurer <b>Michael Roorda</b>	778-3653

#### CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager <b>J. Edward Tewes</b>
Interim City Attorney <b>Dan Siegel</b>
Assistant to the City Manager <b>Brian Stott</b>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <b>Garrett Toy</b>
Community Development Director <b>Kathy Molloy Previsich</b>
Council Services and Records Manager <b>Irma Torrez</b>
Finance Director <b>Jack Dilles</b>
Human Resources Director <b>Mary Kaye Fisher</b>
Police Chief <b>Bruce Cumming</b>
Public Works Director <b>Jim Ashcraft</b>
Recreation and Community Services Director <b>Steve Rymer</b>

#### CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

Animal Control	776-7300
Aquatics Center	782-2134
Business Assistance and Housing Services	776-7373
Centennial Recreation Center	782-2128
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Community and Cultural Center	782-0008
Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness	776-7310
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Graffiti Hotline	776-8985
Illegal Dumping Hotline	776-7337
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use/Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Water	779-7221
City Hall Fax Number	779-3117

City Website: [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov)

#### CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Connection are welcome.

Contact the editor Brian Stott at 779-7271 or

[brian.stott@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:brian.stott@morganhill.ca.gov). City Connection is published by the City of Morgan Hill.

# City Beautification Day

A terrific group of hardworking community spirited volunteers braved a heat spell to come out for this year's City Beautification Day on May 17. Members of the Church of Latter Day Saints, the Morgan Hill Bible Church, Hospira, the Fleurs Garden Club and individual families worked hard from 8:00 am until noon



performing a variety of tasks. Much work was accomplished at Galvan Park: volunteers painted the handball court, planted trees, spread mulch, picked up litter, removed weeds, painted picnic tables, painted red curbs and added crushed rock at the BBQ area. Volunteers also cleaned up the planting island on Bonnie View Court, pressure washed around the Veterans Memorial downtown, planted flowers at the Aquatics Center, spread mulch and added

plants to the Butterfly Garden and planted a tree at Nordstrom Park. As always, the Kiwanis Club provided a great BBQ lunch and tee shirts were distributed to the volunteers at the end of the event. Many thanks to everyone who participated!

## Doesn't Your Stuff Deserve a 2nd Chance?

In recognition of the many benefits of Reuse, South County is celebrating its sixth annual Second Chance Week on September 6th-14th. With the goal of putting more used stuff back into circulation and keeping it out of our landfills, Second Chance Week will feature a diverse range of innovative Reuse, Resale and Repair activities. Here's the schedule.

September 6 & 7	Gilroy Garage Sale
September 8	Universal Waste Awareness Day
September 9	Donate and Shop Local Thrift Stores Day
September 10	Donate Coats for Kids and Adults Day
September 11	Second Sight Day
September 12	Recycle Your Cycle Day
September 13 & 14	Morgan Hill Garage Sale (Application included in this issue)

These events are jointly sponsored by the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy. For more detailed information on all of these events, visit the City's website at [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov) or call Environmental Programs at 779-7247.

***Remember Old Stuff can be Good Stuff,  
so Choose to Reuse.***

## Direct Pay

*Pay your utility bill  
automatically!*

For your convenience the City of Morgan Hill offers a direct payment option to pay your city utility bill through an electronic debit directly from your checking account.

All residential and commercial customers are eligible to participate. Accounts must be current (zero balance) and not subject to other payment arrangements. You will continue to receive a statement showing you your current charges and the due date. The automatic payment posts to your account approximately one day before the due date. No late fees! No penalties!

Signing up is easy! Contact our utility billing department at 408 779 7221 for additional information and an application.

# BUDGET ADOPTED FOR 08-09

On June 18, 2008 the City Council and Redevelopment Agency adopted the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets. Prior to this passage, a budget workshop was held on May 30 and a public hearing was held on June 4 to provide a forum for citizen input and Council discussion.

The adopted budget of \$152,780,203 is an increase of over \$11 million from the Fiscal Year 2007/08 adopted budget and includes maintaining current public service levels while implementing an aggressive capital improvement program.

Programs supported by general taxes and fees are located within the City's General Fund and provide services including police, fire, recreation, parks maintenance and general administration. As the State of California continues to wrestle with its own financial difficulties, reduced funding at the State level typically results in a loss of General Fund revenues which cities must absorb. Any reduction in State funding will have a significant impact on the ability of the General Fund to sustain current service levels.

The adopted budget includes a deficit of \$305,000 in the General Fund but due to the prudent build up of financial reserves over the past decade, Morgan Hill is in a position to carefully manage a response to this challenge without reducing service levels or immediately increasing taxes. As many California cities struggle through the sluggish economy, the City of Morgan Hill has adopted policies and procedures to minimize the effect of these fluctuations.

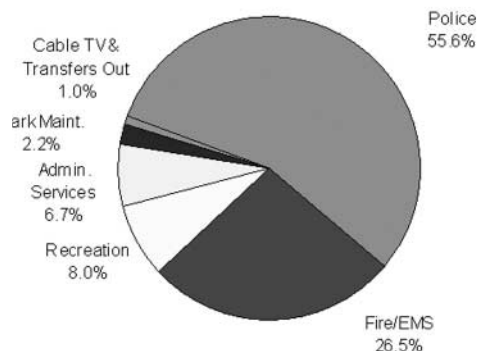
The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget consists of approximately \$51 million in projects. The majority of capital improvement projects will be located within the redevelopment area and will be funded through a prior redevelopment agency bond issuance and tax increment revenue.

## Major projects in the CIP include:

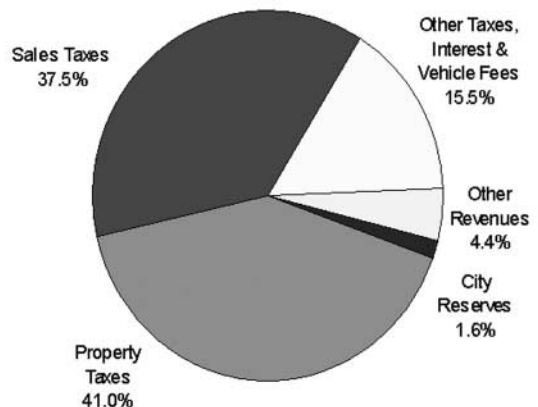
- 3rd Street Promenade and downtown entry signs
- purchase of park lands and general park improvements
- design and construction of the new skateboard park
- construction of the Development Services Center
- renovation of the Friendly Inn
- miscellaneous sewer and street rehabilitation/improvements including the Santa Teresa right-of-way

These projects, many of which will extend beyond the current fiscal year, are part of the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program. The five year program and description of all projects can be viewed as part of the adopted budget document.

A copy of the adopted budget is available for review at City Hall, the Morgan Hill Library, and on the City's website at [www.morganhill.ca.gov](http://www.morganhill.ca.gov). Questions concerning the City's Budget may be directed to the Finance Department at (408) 779-7237.



The City's General Fund will expend \$26,461,327 of which 82.1% will be spent on public safety. The City continues to explore funding mechanisms in order to enhance public safety service levels.



The General Fund receives revenue from property taxes, sales taxes, transient occupancy taxes, and other miscellaneous sources. In Fiscal Year 2008/09, the City projects \$26,153,570 in revenue and will use \$307,758 in reserves to balance the budget. This one-time use of reserves does not hinder the City's ability to maintain the Council adopted reserve minimum, however the City will continue to explore potential revenue sources to help balance future budgets.



# How to Improve the Air Without Really Trying

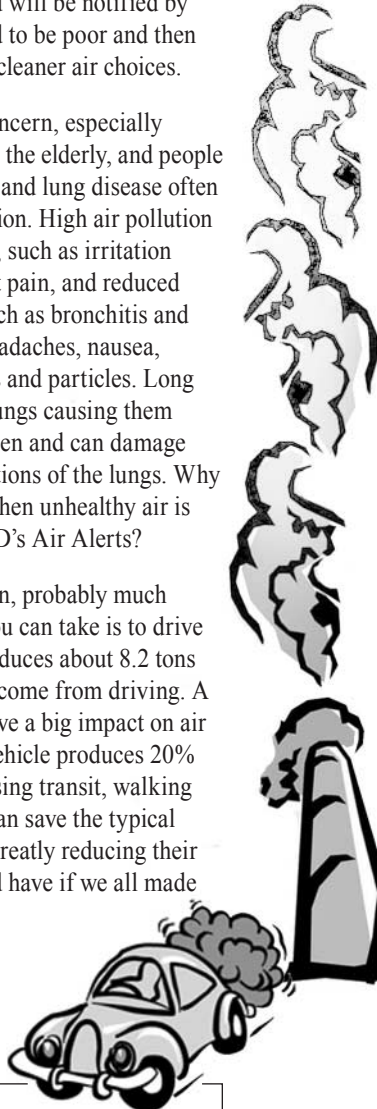
In 1991, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) established their “Spare the Air” program to inform the public about air pollution and its health impacts and to encourage air pollution prevention. The summer “Spare the Air” season runs from June through mid-October when clear skies, hot temperatures, lighter than usual winds and a strong temperature inversion combine and trap air pollutants near the ground. As part of the “Spare the Air” campaign, BAAQMD offers a free Air Alert service (see sidebar). When you sign up, you will be notified by email the day before air quality is forecasted to be poor and then take action to protect your health and make cleaner air choices.

Air pollution can be a serious public health concern, especially during the summer months. Young children, the elderly, and people with health problems such as asthma, heart, and lung disease often suffer the most from the effects of air pollution. High air pollution levels can cause immediate health problems, such as irritation to the eyes, nose and throat, wheezing, chest pain, and reduced resistance to upper respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Other symptoms can include headaches, nausea, fatigue, and increased reactivity to allergens and particles. Long term exposure adds stress to the heart and lungs causing them to work harder to supply the body with oxygen and can damage cells in the respiratory system and deep portions of the lungs. Why not be proactive and alert your loved ones when unhealthy air is predicted by signing up to receive BAAQMD’s Air Alerts?

There’s a lot you can do to prevent air pollution, probably much more than you realize. The biggest action you can take is to drive less. The average citizen in Morgan Hill produces about 8.2 tons of carbon per year. Most of these emissions come from driving. A small change in your driving choices can have a big impact on air pollution. For example, a well-maintained vehicle produces 20% less ozone-related emissions. Carpooling, using transit, walking or bicycling just one day a week for a year can save the typical commuter about 1,200 vehicle miles while greatly reducing their emissions. Imagine the impact that we could have if we all made these simple changes!

## Sign Up For Free Air Alerts

If you’d like to be notified when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, you can subscribe to BAAQMD’s free Air Alert service and receive an email notice sent to your home, work, or cell phone the day before a “Spare the Air” day is predicted to occur. You may also sign up to receive a daily air quality forecast. We encourage you to visit <http://airalert.sparetheair.org/> to sign up for this service. When you receive an Alert, you can take steps to help reduce summer air pollution.



Here are some additional things you can do to improve our air quality on “Spare the Air” days and everyday:

## Get out of your car:

- Burn calories not fuel - use your legs and walk or bike
- Take public transit and read a book during your commute
- Call 511 to find rideshare opportunities
- Put off all nonessential trips and activities that require engines until the air is better
- Telecommute if your employer will allow it
- Take your lunch to work and avoid mid-day driving

## If you must drive:

- Offer a ride to a friend or coworker
- Combine trips - your car emits more pollution right after a cold start
- Run your errands at night, after dark
- If you must refuel, do it after dark and don’t top off the tank
- Drive your most fuel-efficient car
- Keep your car well tuned and your tires inflated
- Drive smoothly, this saves fuel and lowers emissions
- Drive the speed limit, higher speeds mean more pollutants
- Consider purchasing a reduced-emission vehicle, such as a hybrid.

## Things to do at home:

- Use an electric or old fashioned push lawn mower
- If you can’t put off mowing with a gas mower, do it late in the day
- Use a broom instead of a leaf blower
- Use an electric starter or charcoal chimney to start your barbecue (there’s no need to ever use lighter fluid)
- Turn off the lights and any other appliances you can do without
- Use water-based paints
- Go “natural” for the day and keep your hairspray in the cabinet
- Keep all aerosol spray cans in the cabinet until the air improves

Taking any of these actions will help, and the more you do, the more air pollution you will help prevent. Follow these simple tips every day and spread the word! If everyone takes just a few of these easy steps, it will add up to cleaner, healthier air in Morgan Hill.

Where you purchase your food can have an enormous impact on the health of the planet. In fact, you can make one simple choice that can help reduce global warming, improve your health, and positively affect the local economy - "Go Local"! Just by buying food that is produced locally, you can help yourself, the environment and your community while enjoying fresh, tasty food.

The concept of buying local is simply to buy food (or any good or service) produced, grown, or raised as close to your home as possible. Most food purchased at a grocery store travels an average of 1,500 miles to reach your dinner plate. It is trucked across the country, hauled in freighter ships over oceans, and flown around the world. The tremendous amount of fuel used to transport foods such long distances contributes to global warming, acid rain, and air pollution. Even the refrigeration required to keep food from spoiling during transit burns up energy. Food processors need to use a large amount of paper and plastic packaging to keep food looking fresh for a longer period of time. This packaging eventually becomes waste that is difficult, if not impossible, to reuse or recycle. Local foods from small farms are distributed within a few dozen miles of where they originate, use less energy to transport, and require almost no packaging.

Buying food from local farms means getting food when it's at its prime. Locally grown food was probably picked within the past day or two. It's crisp, sweet and loaded with flavor. Produce flown or trucked in from other parts of the country or world is much older. A recent study showed that fresh produce loses nutrients quickly. In a week-long (or more) delay from harvest to dinner table, sugars turn to starches, plant cells shrink, and produce loses its vitality. Industrially-farmed food uses potentially dangerous preservatives to prevent nutrient loss. They are also difficult to grow without pesticides, chemical fertilizers, antibiotics and growth hormones, all of which can be damaging to both the environment and human health. Fresh, local foods from small farms usually undergo minimal processing. Quite simply, locally grown food tastes better and is better for you.



## Are you ready to "Go Local"? Here's what you can do:

- Shop at the Morgan Hill Farmers' Market, open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9am-1pm. Come out to the Train Station at 3rd and Depot Streets for a huge selection of flowers and plants, first of the season's cherries and strawberries, asparagus, garden starter plants, greenhouse tomatoes fresh ocean fish & much more from local Certified Growers & Producers. Don't forget to bring your own reusable shopping bag!
- Be aware of what's in season. By purchasing local foods in-season, you eliminate the environmental damage caused by shipping foods thousands of miles. For example, don't buy oranges from South America during the summer. As an added bonus; your food dollar goes directly to the farmer; supporting the local economy; you avoid paying a premium for food that is scarcer or has traveled a long way; and your family will be able to enjoy the health benefits of eating fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables. Buying seasonal produce also gives you the opportunity to try new foods and to experiment with seasonal recipes. Visit <http://guide.buylocalca.org/index.html> to find out what's in season in our area.
- Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). CSA's allow you to create a relationship with a farm and to receive fresh, in-season produce. By making a financial commitment to a farm, people become "members" (or "shareholders," or "subscribers") of the CSA. Many farms offer produce subscriptions where buyers receive a weekly or monthly basket of produce, flowers, fruits, eggs, milk, coffee, or any sort of different farm products. Call 779-7247 or email us at [environ@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:environ@morganhill.ca.gov) to get more information on our local CSA's.
- Grow your own food. Do you have a place where you can grow some plants? It doesn't have to be a large space, even a pot will do. Growing your own food gives you a kind of connection with the earth and the things that live in it. You'll get the satisfaction of watching your food grow and know exactly what went into it. Gardening is also a great way to let go of stress!
- Encourage your local grocery store to stock food purchased from local farmers.
- Purchase food from local farms and produce stands.
- You don't have to go to the Napa Valley for a good bottle of wine! Morgan Hill has several local wineries and even a local brewery which offers award winning microbrews. Visit <http://www.morganhill.org/maps.htm> to download a map to these points of interest.

By supporting our local farmers today, you can help ensure that there will be farms in our community tomorrow and that future generations will have access to nourishing, flavorful and abundant food. "Go Local", it's good for you and good for the planet!

# ANNUAL SOUTH COUNTY GARAGE SALE COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Promote the idea of reuse, conserve landfill space and avoid wasting valuable resources - have a garage sale! Morgan Hill, Gilroy and South Santa Clara County are celebrating their commitment to reducing waste by sponsoring South County Garage Sale Days in September. Morgan Hill garage sales will be on September 13th and 14th.

You provide the garage. You keep the cash. Clean out your closets and empty the attic! We will provide free advertising and free garage sale kits. These kits include tips for a successful sale, inventory sheets and a list of organizations who will accept donations of usable items. (You may want to check with your Home Owners Association, if applicable, to make sure you can have a garage sale.) For more information, contact the City of Morgan Hill Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or by email at [andi.borowski@morganhill.ca.gov](mailto:andi.borowski@morganhill.ca.gov)

TO PARTICIPATE, COMPLETE AND RETURN  
THE APPLICATION AT THE RIGHT BY  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2008

NAME/PHONE (WILL NOT BE LISTED)

.....

.....

ADDRESS OF GARAGE SALE

.....

.....

.....

DAYS PARTICIPATING (CIRCLE ONE):

Saturday Only

Sunday Only

Saturday and Sunday

ITEMS YOU WILL SELL (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY):

Antiques    Appliances    Baby Items    Books

Clothes    Furniture    Home Décor    Jewelry

Knick Knacks    Toys    Other (please list):

.....

## PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

I agree to operate my garage sale on the day(s) specified above, from 8 AM until 2 PM. I agree to contact the City if I cancel my sale so that my address can be removed from the list of participants. I understand that the deadline for my application/cancellation is Friday, August 29, if my address is to be included. I understand and agree that the City makes no guarantee of sales volume or level of advertising or other publicity. Regarding any claims or liabilities of any nature arising from my participation in this program, I hereby waive any claims I or my representatives may have, and further agree to protect, defend and hold harmless the City and its officers, agents, and employees.

SIGNATURE

.....

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Garage Sale Day

Environmental Programs Division

17555 Peak Avenue

Morgan Hill, CA 95037



YOU CAN ALSO FAX THIS FORM TO 779-7236



1st Annual



## SPLASH 2 DASH

Y • O • U • T • H T • R • I • A • T • H • L • O • N AGES 5-12

**September 13, 2008**  
**starting at 8AM**

A Fun and  
Confidence Building Race

- T-shirt
- Goodie bag
- Finisher medal  
for each participant

Starting and ending at the  
Morgan Hill Aquatics Center  
16200 Condit Road, Morgan Hill

For additional information  
call 782-2128  
or visit [www.mhcr.com](http://www.mhcr.com)



# MORGAN HILL GET FIT

Fitness Fair and Open House

**October 11**

8am-1pm

5K Run/Walk • 9:30 am

Family Fun Run • 11:00 am

Free Access to the CRC

Group FitLinxx  
Demonstrations

Fitness Tips for All Ages

Youth Activities

Free Food, Fun and  
Giveaways

**Centennial  
Recreation Center**  
171 W Edmundson Ave  
[www.mhcr.com](http://www.mhcr.com)  
782-2128



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Morgan Hill, CA 95037

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